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Crypto Chronicle
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Issue Four

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The
Crypto Chronicle
The Crypto Chronicle
Editorial
Welcome to issue four, I must admit that I did not think that the time would go by quite so quickly since the last issue, I felt that issue three was much better than both of the previous two, the contents were better and the spelling was also much better, I've finally learnt how to use the spell check.
Before I go any further, I must thank Gene Duplantier for supplying the Harrison Sasquatch article from his magazine Delve. My apologies Gene for forgetting to mention you and Delve when I published the article. I would also like to that Bernard Heuvelmans for his kind permission in letting me use some of the information in his excellent book 'In The Wake of the Sea Serpents'.
To change the subject slightly, there has recently been rather a lot of Cat activity in and around the Midlands. So far this year there has been a fair few sightings, two people actually came face to face with what they called a black leopard in Inkberrow. I have managed to meet the two people concerned and get the events that happened logged properly, there will be a article later on giving you all the

information conceming the attack. I shall also be writing about the Western Bigfoot Society from America who have been kind enough to supply details of themselves, along with other interesting info I would also like to thank Zhou Guoxing who is one of the worlds leading authorities on wildmen, and is also vice-director of Beijing Natural History Museum, for his article called The Big Wildman and the Little Wildman. Thanks also goes to R.P. Mackal for letting me use info from one of his wonderful books Searching for Hidden Animals. In late March I moved house note the change of address below. I would like to thank Steve Feltham for the article about himself and how he got involved with his quest for Nessie. I must mention that he has to fund himself so any donations are welcome see address with the article.

I have been trying to obtain info on Lake Monsters especially for this issue, I do have a little info so that will also be included, plus you guessed it more on Bigfoot. If you don't want to see so much on Bigfoot drop me aline and I shall try to put other items in. Personally I'm mad about BIGFOOT, and hope it stays.

I hope that you all enjoy this issue. If you do have any questions or want to see other subjects involving CRYPTOZOOLOGY then let me know. I would like to thank everybody for your support/help.

Mini-Sub gives tourists the chance to hunt 'Nessie'

A submarine in Loch Ness will offer tourists the ultimate experience this spring, their own underwater monster hunt. The six passenger Canadian built mini-sub is to be brought to the Loch in March to aid research into the Loch's ecology and natural features, but as it completes it's work, tourists will be offered a seat,

Although it's operators are making no promises of a sighting of Nessie. And naturalists now believe Nessie may turn out not to be the monster of popular legend, but a giant sturgeon. The research for the Rosetta Project, will study Loch-bed sediment which researchers believe could lie in layers capable of yielding a year-by-year natural history.

The 34ft, 24 tonne submarine can operate down to the bottom depths of the 750ft steep-sided Loch. Operations manager Alan Whitfield said "Each of the dives will be in a slightly different location, maybe you will see something extraordinary, but maybe you won't." The secrets of Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster are gradually being stripped bare by scientists, Scotlands most compelling tourists attraction is no Jurassic relic, nor mammal or reptile, if she is a permanent resident, she is unlikely to weigh more than 300 kilogrammes. But she or he could be a love lom sturgeon who blundered into Loch Ness in search of a mate. Naturalist Adrian Shine believes much of the evidence points to a Baltic sturgeon, which grows upto three meters long or more and can weigh 200 kilos. "I suppose there would still be something unexplained there, and some of the unexplained sightings have been by local people of manifest sincerity unconnected with the tourist trade," he said.

The work of Mr. Shrine and others has gradually unfolded a picture of a deep, mysterious world. Naturalists calculate the total fish population of the Loch weighs about 30 tonnes. By rule-of-thumb, any resident predator feeding on those fish would themselves weigh no more than a tenth of that. A viable population would require maybe 10 predators making 300 kilos the likely maximum size for each.

Forget the leftover dinosaur theory, according to Mr. Shine, the last

plesiosaur was fossilised 65 million
years ago, and 10,000 years ago
[AD] Editor:-Craig Harris, 50 Green Lane, Worcester, *** ***, England. :Tel (+44) 0905 779208
'The articles in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the editor'
Loch Ness would have been a giant
ice cube. The Loch could never
support dinosaurs anyway, dinosaurs
were reptiles, and Loch Ness is too
cold. Nor is Nessie likely to be a
mammal, whales or popoises would
surface enough to be identified and
seals in the Loch have been identified
as seals. But deer swim in the Loch
more than non-experts might think
and huge underwater waves created by
the Loch's peculiar geography could
also give the appearance on the
surface of a large object travelling at
speed.
This article was take from Daily Post
29th Dec. 1993.
***Tell me what you think of Nessie
Loch Ness Monster May Be
Lovelorn Sturgeon
Loch Ness contains too little food to
support any monsters left over from
the days of the dinosaurs and
Scotland's most compelling tourist
attraction is probably nothing more
than a lovelorn sturgeon, naturalists
now believe.
The key plank of evidence is that
Nessie is unlikely to weigh more than
660lbs because of the limited food on
offer to any predator. However, a
sturgeon, a primitive fish with a
snout and spines that might have
blundered into the loch in search of a
mate, would not be bothered by the
lack of food, since it fasts in fresh
water.
"It is my favourite theory," said Mr.
Adrian Shine, head of the Loch Ness
Project at Drumnadrochit. "But it is
only one explanation." A series of 13
papers to be published shortly in the
Scotish Naturalist discount the
possibility that Nessie is a reptile, a
mammal or an amphibian and return
to the original theory that the monster
is a large fish.
The first locally recorded sighting,

announced in the Inverness Courier in 1868, spoke of a huge fish, and local legend has always spoken of a fish-like animal. The sturgeon is a large fish which enters fresh water to breed and spawn. It is somewhat reptile like, and has a long snout that could conceivably give the appearance of the characteristic Nessie neck.

Nessie photographed in 1963: Is the sturgeon?

According to the papers about to be published, the loch's food chain is not driven by algae but by bacteria, that break down terrestrial vegetation washed into it. The scientists estimate that the total amount of fish that can be sustained by the nutrient-poor loch total only thirty tonnes, and any resident predators would weigh no more than a tenth of that.

A viable population would require maybe 10 predators making 660lbs the likely maximum weight for each.

Intriguing physical characteristics of the loch may also explain some underwater currents, or seiches, are set up when the wind blows the warmer surface water layer north-east. There, it accumulates before reversing course, flowing south-west strongly against the wind. This may explain why people report objects apparently swimming against the wind, and sonar equipment specialists encounter underwater mirages.

Mirages can also be caused because the loch takes so long both to warm and to cool. In some conditions warm air above the surface can exaggerate the vertical appearance of an object.

Forget the left-over dinosaur theory, said Mr. Shine. The last plesiosaur was fossilised 65 million years ago, and 10,000 to 12,000 years ago Loch Ness would have been a giant ice cube.

The loch could never

support dinosaurs
anyway, they were
reptiles, and the
temperature of Loch
Ness exceeds 12c for only four
months of the year, making it
attractive only to Ice Age species.
Nor could a monster be an amphibian,
such as a giant newt. Studies have
shown that the fish in the loch, such
as Arctic char, salmon and eels, have
all migrated from the sea and there
are no known marine amphibians.
Nessie is equally unlikely to be a
mammal, although mammals could
account for some of the sightings
seals and even deer are candidates for
confusing onlookers. If Nessie is real,
the Baltic sturgeon fits all the loch's
newly-discovered scientific
parameters, said Mr. Shine.
Daily Telegraph 29th Dec 1993.
****

Nessie Double Take - Highland
News August 28th 1993.
A Scaniport man has broken his
silence on a rare double sighting of
the Loch Ness Monster.

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He is a 41 year old forestry and
landscape contractor Roland O'Brien
of Balmore Farm, Scaniport.
The memorable night Nessie gave
him an encore was Tuesday August
10th but he said that, like most
country folk, he's been reluctant to
talk about it. He told the Highland
News he was waiting for a fishing
mate at the 30mph limit sign on the
Foyers side of Dores when he had the
biggest shock of his life.
"I had baited my rod and had been
fishing for 10 minutes, and there
were quite a few fish rising," he said.
"Something caught the corner of my
eye, but I didn't pay much attention to
start with. It was it's strange
behaviour that made me look again."
"I saw a large dark hump about 500

yards out from the shore and heading towards the buoy in Dores Bay.
"From the size of the buoy, I would estimate that what I saw was between eight and ten feet long," revealed Roland. "It was about four feet out of the water at it's highest point, making it higher than the buoy. It moved rapidly for about five minutes and seemed to be making lots of splashing in front of it. It came to a stop, then started again. It stopped again then started off again a third time," Roland said. "About 50 metres from the buoy it stopped, appeared to tum around, then headed back. Then it sank on the spot without a trace."
Roland said he did not know what to do, because he was simply shocked rigid by his experience. But he was to receive a second helping! I'd been watching for about four minutes before the creature went down," he said, "then about a minute later, up she came again! "The second time, there was no great commotion. It was moving reasonably slowly back towards me in about a 60-degree angle. "the shape was the same as before. It looked fairly bulky.
Swimming back from the buoy, it came to about 350 yards from me.
"I watched it again for about for minutes. About half-way into the second sighting, there was a big splash beside the hump," Roland said. "The splashing continued for a couple of minutes, then it sank again, and again it left no trace." Again he was not frightened, just shocked rigid, not knowing what to do.
Altogether, he had had a grandstand view of Nessie for something like 10 minutes in excellent visibility with the loch calm. "I have been watching Loch Ness for something like 10 years," Roland said. "I had seen something twice before, but never anything like this. Any talk of logs, dogs, cattle or deer swimming is nonsense. What I saw was large and capable of going from standstill to

extremely fast in seconds.
"Not only that, but when it turned, I seemed to see something light. There seemed to be a lighter underside to the creature." His main regret is that his fishing mate Kenny MacKenzie, who has had a classic sighting himself, missed Nessie double show by 10 minutes. "Mind you," he laughed, "It was even worse for monster hunter Steve Feltham. He was on the wrong side of the Loch, at Fort Augustus, at the time!"
Nessie - Cery
family holiday to Scotland. Like most small boys I was curious about dinosaurs, monsters and mysteries and when I came across the old headquarters of the 'Loch Ness Investigation Bureau' at Achnahannet, with it's observation platforms and camera's with lenses the size of which I had never realised existed....I was hooked! Here were a group of volunteers patiently studying the water, trying to explain what I soon came to realise is one of the greatest unsolved mysteries of the British Isles.
Twenty years later, after many more trips to the Loch, firstly with my parents and later in adult life during annual holidays from work, staying in tents, cars and vans, talking to local eye-witnesses and watching and waiting for a sighting of my own, I realised that my love of the Loch and my passionate belief in it's most famous residents could no longer be satisfied on a part time basis. If I was to avoid reaching old age and saying to my hyperthetical grand-children.... "I wish I'd found out if there was a life to be lived as a full-time monster hunter whilst I had the chance...." Now was the time for me to find out! I sold my house, quit my job, bought a twenty-one year old converted mobile library to live in and set off for the Loch and the life that since a child, I had dreamed of. Three years have now passed since I

left Dorset and all the security that
my previous lifestyle offered, three
INDEPENDENT totally unpredictable years, constantly
RESEARCH
Steve Feltham
Firstly I think that I should explain
how it is that I have become a full-
time hunter of Loch Ness animals. At
the age of seven I was first gripped
by this subject while on a
on the Loch-side, constantly asking
questions, listening to peoples
accounts of what they've seen,
spending hours in boats watching
echo-sounder charts slowly etch out
the underwater contours and
patrolling the shore-line with my
powerful video camera in my hand.
During this time I have come to
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understand the problems of
geography, climate and sheer
blooming size, in a far greater way
than any of my previous research
could have prepared me for.
I knew from the start of this
adventure that my opinions about
Nessie could go either way once I
started to scratch away at the mystery
It was possible that I could find
myself agreeing with the great weight
of public opinion that argues that
nothing more mysterious exists at
Loch Ness than a desire by local
businessmen and tourist board
officials to cash in on a fifteen
hundred year old legend. It is true
after all that over the years this
subject has attracted more than it's
fair share of hoax's and publicity
stunts and it is easy to see why the
press have, due to the relatively small
amounts of concrete evidence, found.
it much more useful for themselves
to place the subject in the 'silly
season' category than to give it
serious coverage.....I could easily
become disillusioned with the whole
subject.
This was not to be the case! As I
started to win the trust of the locals

they started to tell me of their experience, their observations of large living animals seen briefly on the surface of the loch, the loch which they live by, work around and drive along daily. These people know Loch Ness in all it's moods, all its seasons, from a mirror calm picture postcard to a very dangerous sea with waves of upto six feet. They are familiar with the wildlife that they expect to see on the water, all the different birdlife, otters, swimming deer and even the occasional seals and yet, time and time again they are describing something else, something large and powerful and moving in a manor which cannot be explained away as merely boat wakes or freak waves. These are not the business men and tourist officials who are also here, these are the people with no financial interest in the Loch or in tourism infact, often the people telling me of their experiences are the very people who resent the thousands of tourists who annually flock to Loch Ness. People are still seeing things here and when they do I generally get to hear about it. I interview them, listening to what they are describing, looking for a pattern and in my mind a pattern is forming. I always ask for a written account of their experiences so that I can pass the information onto Rip Hepple's 'Ness Letter', which is quarterly and a newsletter circulated to people with an interest in studying what is currently happening here. Very rarely is one of these local people prepared to put it in writing because in years gone by they have seen friends and neighbours ridiculed in the press and as a result stories just tend to remain inside the close nit lochside communities.
There are two things which I have come to Loch Ness to do.....Firstly I want to get my own piece of video film of one of these animals, to put with the body of evidence for their existence, to contribute in some way

to this quest and secondly I want to publicise other peoples sightings, to make the general public realise that this subject deserves serious investigation, that it's not just pranks and people's imaginations. I want to raise this subject out of that 'silly season' category and give it a more believable position in the public mind.

Those business men and tourist board officials are not funding my work, I fund myself from my savings, from models of Nessie that I make and sell in the summertime
and from people's kind donations. It is a 'hand to mouth' existence but one that I would not change for the world. My aim is to be here carrying out this work for many decades to come, looking for the answers to this fantastic mystery. How I will fund this I am not yet sure, a good piece of video film of one of these animals will certainly help. So I will continue to watch the water both summer and winter and wait.....

Editors comments!

Thanks Steve for the article he has kindly written for this mag. I would like to ask all you readers too, if possible send a small donation to Steve to help him with all his valuable work. Also if anybody who wants to write to Steve then write to: Nessie-Cery Independent Research. c/o The Post Office, Dores, LOCH NESS, Inverness, IV1 2TR.

Thanks again Steve for the article and all the work you are putting into the Loch Ness Monster. Incidentally if you could enclose a stamp when you write to Steve I'm sure he would appreciate it.....Ed

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In 1897, portions of an octopus, said to have been more gigantic than any ever before seen, were washed up on the beech of St. Augustine. Professor Verrill, of Yale University, an eminent zoologist of the time, examined the remains, which

reputedly weighed over six tons, calculated that the living creature had a girth of 25 feet and tentacles 72 feet in length.
Thus begins the modern part of the saga of the giant octopus. Wood a senior scientist and consultant with the Ocean Sciences Department of the Naval Undersea Research and Development Laboratory at San Deigo, California, knowing some-

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-thing about octopuses, reacted with immediate disbelief, since the largest acceptable size as far as he was concerned was the northern Pacific species (Octopus dofleini) 57 kilograms (125 pounds) 6 meters (20 feet) tentacle tip to tentacle tip. However, Wood was intrigued, especially since the supposed site of the stranding of the carcass was only 25 kilometres (16 miles) from where he was working, and he knew that Professor A. E. Verrill of Yale had been a noted authority on cephalopods. He states, "Verrill's name, along with a specific year and place, was enough to set me digging." Unfortunately, neither the date nor the newspaper name was given. The Jacksonville Public Library informed him that the clipping was from the Florida Times Union, Tuesday December 1st 1896. The article stated that the carcass was a portion of a whale 92 feet long by 6 feet wide, but President Webb' (president of the St. Augustine Scientific Society) had examined the monster and pronounced it to be an octopus.
Wood continued his sleuthing. uncovering further details, including photographs and articles by both Webb and Verrill. Verrill's last article retracted his earlier identification of octopus, based, he said, on general form and appearance. Verrill's specimens were large

masses of exterior skin, three to ten inches thick, firm, elastic, and very tough, and he now thought the animal must be a vertebrate, probably related to Whales, but he could not refer the carcass to any part of any known whale or, in fact, to any other known animal.

Wood was not convinced that Verrill's final assessment was correct, especially after Wood obtained a copy of Verrill's article in American
Chronicle
Naturalist, April 1987, which was written prior to his final change of heart.

Wood obtained further data through Gilbert L. Voss of the University of Miami Marine Laboratory, including information that the Smithsonian Institution possessed a large jar of preserved tissue bearing the label Octopus giganteus Verrill. Things were really getting interesting now! If truly an actual piece of tissue was available for analysis, modern science should be able to settle the matter. Naturally, Wood contacted the Smithsonian posthaste, and was told by the associate curator of molluscs that they indeed had such a specimen! The prime question was of course whether a small sample of tissue could be obtained for analysis.

Wood now turned to a friend, Dr. J. F. Gennaro, Jr of the University of Florida, who had been working on octopus material at the Merineland Laboratory. Dr. Gennaro was most interested, and proceeded to contact Harold A. Rehder curator of molluscs at the Smithsonian. Gennaro succeeded in obtaining a sample of the tissue plus additional data including a photograph made from an original glass plate exposed more than sixty years before.

A detailed account of the discovery of the carcass has been published by Gary S. Mangiacopra in the Spring 1975 issue of Sea and Shore,

E
Not only had he been able to collect and locate more historical data about Octopus giganteus Verrill, but he also continues to discover heretofore unknown references to unusual or unidentified lake and sea monsters.
Two youngsters, Herbert Coles and Dunham Coretter, while cycling on Anastasia Beach, discovered a huge carcass partially buried in the sand. Their planned excursion to Matazas Inlet was of course forgotten in the excitement of this fantastic discovery.
Almost immediately the presence of the carcass was reported to DeWitt Webb, a medical doctor whose hobby was natural history, especially that of the area around St. Augustine.
According to Mangiacopra, Dr. Webb was responsible for the founding of the St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science, serving as president of his society for thirty four years.
Webb recognised the importance of examining and preserving at least part of the creature, presumably a whale.
On the next day, December 1st, Dr. Webb and others examined the 'whale' They concluded that the creature had been beached for a number of days prior to the discovery and was already in a poor state of preservation. The estimated weight was given as 5 tons, the part visible above the sand twenty three feet long by four feet high and eighteen feet across the widest part. The outer layer appeared light pink, almost white with a silvery cast.
From his examination, Dr. Webb came to the conclusion that it was not a whale but a giant octopus....
The Crypto Chronicle

Because of bad weather, Webb was not able to study the carcass further until December 5th and 7th, when two photographers accompanying Webb made a number of photograph's. The whereabouts of these original photographs are not known, but two drawings based on two of the snapshots made by Hyatt Verrill, the son of Dr. Verrill who was later to corroborate Webb's identification of 'octopus,' are in hand. The drawings, even if accurate, do not tell us much
See Illustrations 12 & 13.
alone, so his statements is uncorroborated. Shortly thereafter a storm washed the carcass back into the sea, but again the remains were beached, now two miles farther south, at Crescent Beach. Webb now sent several letters describing the carcass to scientists, one of which eventually reached Professor Verrill of Yale, a zoologist of great standing, having described many new species and recognised for his work on cephalopods, particularly giant squids. Verrill promptly published a short note in the American Journal of
13. The Florida Monster, side view.
However, Mangiacopra has noted that the most important feature, in illustration 12 is what looks like the proximal stumps of five tentacles. (An idea of size is given by the inclusion of a human figure.) The second picture is a side view, the right side representing the front portion as shown.
A few days later, a Mr. Wilson reported to Dr. Webb that while digging around the carcass, he had discovered fragments of the tentacles. According to Wilson, 'one arm was lying west of the body, about four feet; three arms lying south of the body and from appearance attached to same (although I did not dig quite to body, as it lay well down in the sand, and I was very tired), longest measured over thirty-two feet, the other arms were three to five feet

shorter.' Unfortunately, Wilson was Science, January 1897, concluding, however, that the creature was a giant squid, and not an octopus, but much larger than then specimens he had examined in Newfoundland in 1870. Webb, meanwhile, forwarded additional data and photographs to Verrill, and these caused him to change his mind. Verrill now published two articles describing the giant octopus, one in the American Journal of Science, February 1897, and the other in the New York Herald, January 3, 1897. Verrill calculated, by comparing proportions with smaller species, that the tentacles were 20 to 30 meters by .5 meter (18 inches) at the base. The creature was designated Octopus giganteus.
Webb was not able to further pursue his investigation of the carcass until the second week in January, after the carcass had been washed out to sea with further losses and mutilation. But Webb now began to work in earnest, reporting by letter both to Verrill and to Professor William Healey Dall, curator of molluscs at the National Museum in Washington D.C. (now the Smithsonian). Mangiacopra's investigations revealed that seven letters written by Webb are in existence, although the replies from Verrill and Dall have not been found.
In spite of the continuing flow of information from Webb to Verrill and Dall, neither scientist made an effort to inspect the carcass. Neither of these scientists or the institutions they represented was willing to provide the necessary time and money to properly preserve and study the animal. Webb however, continued his work. Through the efforts of local citizens and companies, he was able to move the carcass further up the
beach, using teams of horses, thus preventing the possible loss of the remains by being permanently washed

out to sea. On February 1st Webb
prepared separate specimens for
shipment to Verrill and Dall. Webb
cut two pieces from the mantle and
two from the body, preserving them
in from aldehyde. If it were not for
this action by Webb, no hard evidence
would have been preserved for us to
study. Webb was interested in
preserving all of the carcass, and
according to at least one letter,
preservatives were forwarded to him
for this purpose.
Tissue samples on which recent
analyses with modern techniques have
been carried out establishes beyond
reasonable doubt that very large
octopuses exist somewhere in the
Atlantic off the Florida coast.
Whether these creatures explain the
Andros Lusca tradition cannot be
determined until deep-diving explora-
a photograph taken December 7, 1896.
12. The Florida Monster, end view, drawn by A. Hyatt Verrill, from

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-tion is carried out in the area.
Other 'Monsters' found in the
Florida area.
Was The Beast in the
'Surgeon Snap' Just a Toy
From Woolworth's?
1- Carcass of the Florida Monster in the process of being moved up
the beach by a team of horses. The man shown in the picture is most
probably Dr. DeWitt Webb.
I must at this point thank Roy. P.
Mackal for his permission to use the
above article. Which was taken from
SEARCHING FOR HIDDEN
ANIMALS. An Inquiry Into
Zoological Mysteries. 1980.
It looked
like flesh
and blood
but was it
a one foot high plastic wood model,
pair of huge flippers, but by a
painted grey. It was powered not by a
clockwork toy submarine bought for a
few shillings from Woolworth's. The

1934 picture became known as the
attributed to Col. Robert Wilson, a
just plastic Harley St. Gynaecologist who
Surgeon's photograph, because it was
wood?.
For sixty
years, this
celebrated
1934 photo
of a long
necked
creature
popping it's
head above
water has
helped keep
afloat the
legend of
. the Loch
Ness
Monster.
After
scientific
tests on the
film, even sceptics were convinced
there was nothing fishy about the
creature, it seemed irrefutable that
something strange was flapping about
16. Photograph of another view of the Florida Monster, taken second week of January 1897. Note break in tissue exposing muscle tissue.
out there.
But now, it
is claimed,
it was all a
hoax. And
Nessie's
money
spinning
credibility
could be
about to take
■ a nosedive.
The creature
in the film
is said to be
nothing
more than
claimed to have recorded 'something'
in the water on April 19th that year.
Now it is alleged he was part of a
plot to perpetuate the myth of the
monster which began as a joke but

rapidly spun out of control. One of the pranksters, Christian Spurling who died last November aged 90 allegedly confessed the whole thing to Loch Ness researchers David Martin and Alastair Boyd. Christian was the stepson of the man at the centre of the hoax, Marmaduke Weatherell, who also recruited his son Ian, and insurance broker Maurice Chambers. Weatherell wanted revenge after being ridiculed over footprints of the 'monster' he had found on a beach at Loch Ness the previous year. They turned out to have been made by a dried hippo foot - perhaps part of an umbrella stand. Christian, an expert modelmaker, said that in January 1933 his stepfather asked him "Can you make me a monster?" The creature was created in eight days and underwent sea trials on a pond before being taken to Loch Ness to be photographed. Four snaps were then given to Col Wilson, who already had his story prepared.

The picture, first published in the Daily Mail caused a sensation. But the pranksters were so overwhelmed by the deluge of publicity that they decided not to divulge the truth. Today all those involved are dead, but the legacy of what they unwittingly created lives on. The Nessie legend attracts thousands of visitors a year to the 23 mile long, 750 ft deep loch

plus a steady stream of researchers. It is one of the most important industries in the Highlands, generating an estimated £25 million a year from tourism.

The nearby village of Drumnadrochit is home to the official Loch Ness Monster Exhibition, which has made it's owners, Ronnie Bremner, a millionaire. And the Government's marketing agency, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, unashamedly exploits Nessie to promote the area as a holiday venue.

Yesterday, it's spokesman was

undismayed by the latest dent to the monsters credibility. "The legend had been with us since the sixth century and I can't see it's popularity being harmed by yet another controversy,' he said. Tourists don't just come here to try to get a glimpse of Nessie. They're attracted by the scenery as much as by the intrigue of what or what may not be in the loch. Where Nessie's concerned all publicity is good publicity.

Exhibition boss Mr. Bremner was also taking it philosophically. "We show the picture, but don't claim it as genuine," he said. "The fact that it may have been proved a fake will not damage the show's popularity, but strengthen it. There are countless other pieces of evidence pointing to a large beast inhabiting the loch.

'SEA SERPENT' HEAD AND
NECK MADE WITH PLASTIC
WOOD PAINTED GREY
SPACE LEFT FOR
KEY TO WIND
CLOCKWORK
MECHANISM
STABILISERS

One of the first alleged 'sighting' of Nessie or one of it's relatives, was during the sixth century, when St. Columba is said to have encountered a water serpent at the Loch.

Wilson: Photo
Spurling: Modeller
TOY
SUBMARINE
Graphic: DAVID ACE
LEAD BALLAST
ADDED TO KEEL

Other places in Britain that could possibly hold monsters:

Scotland: Loch Ness, Loch Oich, Loch Treig, Loch-a-Choin, Loch Morar, Loch na Mna, Loch Hourn, Loch Voshmaid, Loch Pityoulish, Loch Garten, Loch Scavan, Loch A'Garbh Bhaid Beag, Loch Canisp, Loch Venachar, Loch Arkaig, Loch Lewis, Loch Duvat.

Wales: Liyn yr Afanc, Lake Glaslyn,

Llyn yr Wyth Eidon, Llyn Cynwch,
River Dysynni, Lake Bala.
Ireland: Lough Derg, Lough Mask,
Lough Glendalough, Lough Cleevaun,
Lough Ree, Lough Muck, Lough
Fadda, Lough Dudh, Lough Leane,
Lough Brin, Lough Keane, Lough
Nahooin, Lough Shanakeever, Lough
Auna, Lough Crolan, Lough Derrylea,
Lough Sraheens, Lough Ramor, Lough
Caogh, Lough Abisdealy - Dave
Taylor Strange Guests British
Lake Monsters 1985 unpublished.
Weatherell: Plot

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The Crypto Chronicle
Tony Sandy has been kind enough
to supply us with a:
Sighting Code
by Definition I mean a sudden splash
could be anything and also anything
not moving for hours, could be (and
most probably is) inanimate:- A
drifting log is moving but would
for Lake and Sea hardly qualify as being alive.
Monsters
CLASS ONE:- Full body (head,
neck, torso, appendages) Seen on land
or splashing about in the water. (No
chance of it being anything except
what it appears to be.)
CLASS TWO:- Head and Neck seen
moving through water or otherwise
animated (Head swivelling on neck or
dipping beneath the surface.) Difficult
once more to dispute as being a living
creature of Unknown origins.
CLASS THREE:- Moving object
through water (Again it has to be
animated, only size could lead to it
being misidentified.) 2nd less likely
except through binoculars.
CLASS FOUR:- Either stationary
head and neck (Could be anything,
branch, tree root attached to
submerged trunk.) Or stationary
hump. Photographic examples should
be produced to prove either of these
two 'old chesnuts' are viable causes of
misidentification and not just excuses

for avoiding the examination of the evidence.
CLASS FIVE:- Waves on calm body of water. (Could be something moving under the surface or surface dispurtion from crosswaters.) Both giving the impression of something alive thrashing about as in the latter case, or swimming submerged in the former one.
Duration, Clarity, and Reaction to outline influences (Noises, disturbances by any human beings.) Also need to be taken into consideration.
Likewise something visible for an instant could be a lifeform or a trick of perception. (Possibly even psychically real but not necessarily physically real, and how could you prove it either way.)
****
I would like to thank Tony for taking the time to write, and let us know what he considers to be a valid and trustworthy system of classifying sightings of lake and sea monsters.....Ed
****
I wonder what kind of impact the now pronounced 'Surgeon Fake' will have on people's view of Nessie. Will the general public now think that all sightings from previous, recent, and those that will occur in the future were/are fakes?. I think it's a shame that people like Wilson can get away with such a load of crap for so long. Surely though shouldn't this teach us a lesson? No matter what kind of evidence is or has been compiled on Nessie should be allowed to escape the most rigorous of tests. This has got to be adopted by all investigators and scientists that find themselves involved with Nessie.
It's pretty sad that some characters feel the need to pull stupid stunts like this, I would love to know the logic behind it all! What kind of weird people would get satisfaction from bulls******g the media, sciences and

the general public? It's hard enough to get science to investigate Nessie and Bigfoot, without all these prats making it seem like a comical waste of everybodys time and money....Ed
I would like all readers if possible, who have a passion in Crypto to write and tell me what you feel about fakes. What do you consider to be fake about Nessie and Bigfoot? What kind of evidence do you think, in your own personal opinion, is fake? Maybe you think that the Patterson/Gimlin film is fake. If so write and tell me why. I would be very interested to hear all opinions. I shall then if I have no complaint put them in issue five...Ed.
****

Monstrous Behaviour
Letter to the Times 1980 by Professor Stuart Kirby.
Sir, Mr Gabriel Ronay's information on 'Nessie's Soviet Cousin' (Feb. 16th) A lacustrial monster reported in the Soviet Union, is deeply interesting. Are monsterologists aware that there is also a Japanese cousin?
The phenomenon has been persistently reported, and seen by sober eyes, in Lake Kutcharo in Japan's northern island of Hokkaido. There are photographs of 'Kushie' (kushiteras rhombopteryx) and her wake. (From time immemorial she has been a she.) Lest scoffers opine that the Japanese always copy everything, a cry that is now in any case grossly out of date, I hasten to add that this is an ancient certitude of the aboriginal Ainu, who were in Hokkaido long before the Japanese. They have a beautiful legend that long ago when the world was new, two twin stars fell from the sky. One came down in Lake Kutcharo, and the other far away to the west, as we now know into Loch Ness. Ever since 'Kushie has been calling 'Nessie'. Utilising, a modern method of communicating via the stars according to a Japanese song.

Assuring of her remembrance and
longing to meet her sister again.
The Crypto Chronicle
unidentified)
carcass was
Morgawr The Falmouth Bay Monster discovered on
By A. Mawnan-Peller
In the ancient language of Cornwall, the name MORGAWR, meaning 'Sea Giant', describes an enormous marine monster which lives in the waters of Falmouth Bay. A long necked sea serpent, similar in appearance to the famous 'Nessie' of Loch Ness.
Cornwall is known as the 'Land of Legend' and until fairly recently, the great Cornish Sea-Serpent was regarded as part of that legend. A romantic rumour, a mythological beast, a figment of the Celtic imagination along with mermaids, piskies and spriggans. However, a hundred years ago, a long necked sea-serpent was caught by fishermen in Gerrans Bay.
Fifty years later, a Mr. Reese and Mr. Gilbert trawling three miles south of Falmouth netted an amazing creature. It was twenty feet long, with an eight foot tail, a 'beaked' head, scaly legs, and a broad back covered with 'matted brown hair'. Marine biologist of the day were unable to identify the beast.
One sunny evening in September, 1975, Morgawr was spotted off Pendennis Point, Mrs. Scott of Falmouth, and her friend Mr. Riley, saw a hideous, hump-backed creature, with 'stumpy horns' and bristles down the back of it's long neck. The huge animal dived for a few seconds, then resurfaced with a conger eel in it's jaws. Mrs. Scott says she will never forget 'the face as long as she lives'.
Shortly after the Scott/Riley sighting, Morgawr was encountered by several mackerel fishermen, and blamed it for bad luck, bad weather and bad catches.
In January 1976, a strange (and so far
Durgan Beach,
Helford River

by Mrs. Payne of Falmouth. For a while it was thought that the monster was dead, until the 'Falmouth Packet' newspaper published two photographs of Morgawr, taken in February by a lady who called herself 'Mary F'. They showed a long-necked, hump-backed creature, at least eighteen feet long, swimming in the water off Trefusis Point, near Flushing. Mary F's monster was described as black or very dark brown, with a snake-like head and humps on the back which moved in a 'funny way'.

After publishing those historic photographs, the 'Packet' received a flood of letters from people who claimed to have seen Morgawr. Estimates of the creature's length varied from twelve to forty five feet. At the beginning of May, two London bankers, on a fishing holiday, saw a pair of monsters in the mouth of the Helford River. Now it seems as if Falmouth Bay could contain a whole family of sea-serpents!

'MORGAWR'S MILE'

The mouth of the Helford River appears to be the area most favoured by the sea-serpents. The majority of sightings being from a stretch of coastline between Rosemullion Head and Toll Point. This is now known as 'Morgawr Mile'.

Duncan Viner, a dental technician from Truro, saw Morgawr, in January 1976, swimming 'a few hundred yards off Rosemullion Head'. At first, he thought it was a whale, as only a dark hump was visible, but as he watched, it started to rise in the water and a long neck appeared. Mr. Viner estimated the length of the monster to be between thirty and forty feet.

Miss Amelia Johnson, on holiday from London, was taking a walk in the Rosemullion area when she saw a strange form suddenly emerge from the water in Falmouth Bay.' She describes a sort of 'prehistoric dinosaur thing' with a neck the length

of a lamppost.
Gerald Bennet, of Seworgan, saw a creature swimming in the Helford, one afternoon. The part of it above the water was 'about twelve feet in length, with an elongated neck.'
On Good Friday, 1976, a fifteen year old schoolboy, from Helston, spotted 'a weird animal with two humps and a long neck like a snake', moving up the river between Toll Point and the Gew. The monster was 'slimy black and about twenty five feet long'. He took a photograph of the animal which was later shown on BBC television.
There have been many other sightings along 'Morgawr's Mile', the 'hottest' length of coast for would be monster spotter.
THE MONSTER HUNTERS.
Towards the end of March 1976 a 'professor of metaphysics' from Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, arrived in Falmouth with a plan to capture the monster. Prof. Michael McCormick, a fire-eater and travelling showman, intended to trap Morgawr and to exhibit the beast in his 'Matchbox Circus'. But by the beginning of May, the 'professor' had left Cornwall and without his sea serpent. As it happens, May turned out to be a busy month for Morgawr.
World-famous monster hunter, Tim Dinsdale, decided to investigate the Great Falmouth Sea Serpent. Mr. Dinsdale is best known for his tireless efforts, over a number of years, in pursuit of the Loch Ness Monster. He has written several books on the subject of Nessie.
Another writer showing an interest

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in Morgawr is Peter Costello (In Search of Lake Monsters), who regards the Mary F photographs as 'an important contribution to unravelling the mystery of the Great Sea Serpent.
Folklorist, Tony Shaw (co-author of

'The Folklore of Cornwall') is another keen investigator. He has collected and recorded interviews with most of the people who claim to have seen Morgawr, and is working on a book about the Cornish sea-dragon. Mr. Shaw, at first, regarded the monster as simply a modern-day myth, but is now convinced that there is a huge unidentified creature living in Falmouth Bay.

One of the strangest characters involved in the hunt for Morgawr is Tony 'Doc" Sheils, a professional wizard and well known psychic. The Doc believes he can make telepathic contact with sea-serpents and invoke the creatures by magical means. Doc's monster-hunting exploits have been featured in newspapers and on radio and television. Another magical personality, involved in the hunt, is Psyche, a beautiful young witch from Inverness, who, in the company of several members of her coven, swam naked in the waters of Falmouth Bay, in order to attract the monster to the surface. Since Psyche's initial dip, several nude witches have attempted to raise the sea-serpent by swimming around Morgawr's Mile.

WHAT IS IT?

There are various theories which have been put forward to explain or identify the creature known as Morgawr. The most attractive and exciting notion is that the animal could, possibly, be a plesiosaur. A reptile which is supposed to have been extinct for over seventy million years. The Mary F pictures certainly show something very large, with a long neck, small head, a large hump-backed body, and flippers, riding high in the water, all of which fits in with most zoological descriptions of the plesiosaur. It is also true that these aquatic dinosaurs could adapt to life in both fresh and salt water. However, it is unlikely that a cold-blooded reptile could survive the temperature of Falmouth

Bay.

It has been suggested that Morgawr may be an invertebrate, a giant mollusc or worm. But it would be difficult for a creature without a skeleton to support such a huge body. Nevertheless, very large invertebrates, such as the giant squid, do exist in deep water, although they show themselves on the surface very rarely. The most logical theory, it seems, is that the monster is a type of long-necked seal, a warm-blooded mammal. This is the explanation favoured by such experts as Peter Costello and Bernard Heuvelmans. It is possible that a so far undiscovered and very large species of seal could exist in Falmouth Bay (not to mention Loch Ness). Seals are fairly common around the Cornish coast, and recently a black one was seen in the River Fal.

A very strange theory has been put forward by Doc Sheils, he suggests that Morgawr could be a 'paraphysical entity', a non-organic 'thing' existing in several more than three dimensions capable of changing it's size and shape at will, or even seeming to appear as something else entirely. Doc relates sea and lake monster phenomena to sightings of flying saucers, dragons and 'little green men' all of which he describes as the 'props of a cosmic joker'. Doc's theories are, to a certain extent, supported by a well known writer on the subject of monsters. F. W. Holiday (Great Orm of Loch Ness & The Dragon and the Disc). It is unlikely that Morgawr will be properly identified until a a good, clear colour photograph or a cine film is taken of the creature. Any cameraman who is lucky enough to obtain such a picture will, undoubtedly, have something of great scientific and monetary value.

A GUIDE FOR SERPENT SNAPPERS

Anyone with a camera has a chance of capturing Morgawr on film. Modern,

automatic, cassette loading camera's make good photography easy, removing, as they do, all worries about exposure, shutter speed, focus and so on. However, for a really good still picture of the monster, I would recommend a single-lens reflex camera with a good telephoto lens. Amateur movie-makers would also be well advised to try and shoot the beast. A length of cine film, showing the monster in motion, would be invaluable to zoologists. Better pictures are more likely to be obtained if the camera is mounted on a tripod rather than hand-held. Colour film is recommended for both still and cine photography were a sea serpent is to be the subject. A full colour picture would contain far more useful information than one in black and white. If a camera is not available when Morgawr is seen to surface, sketches should be made, as detailed as possible, they should be made and signed by all witnesses. In this way, when all the evidence is collected and compared, an accurate picture of the creature can be built up and analysed by scientists that are interested in such a phenomena.

Morgawr continues to thrive. On May 20th 1976, Falmouth coastguards received reports of several sightings in the mouth of the Helford River. At the time of writing the Cornwall's Great Sea Serpent is alive and well. Keep an eye on the water. You may be lucky enough to see it yourself.

The Crypto Chronicle

Lake Seljord - Lake Monster

Steve Feltham - (Nessie Cery independent Research)

It was in the Autumn of 1992 that I first heard of Lake Seljord. This was because a delegation of about twenty five Norwegians from the town of Seljord had arrived at Loch Ness on a fact finding mission. The information that they wanted was how they could promote their lake as successfully as Loch Ness.

After all they had nearly 250 years of evidence of large creatures in the deep waters of their lake and rather predictably the business men of the town wanted to reap some of the financial benefits that this had to offer. I was invited along, as a representative of the monster hunting community to a civic reception at Inverness Town Hall given in their honour, where I was able to talk with them and quiz them about what they knew of their creature. One of the pieces of evidence which they told me about, and which I later learned much more about, was the experience of Gunneik Andersson, who some time in 1752 was crossing the lake at Garvik to the north shore. Legend has it that he was towing behind him another rowing boat, and midway across there was suddenly a tremendous disturbance behind him, from which a great serpent rose up causing the boat he was towing to be tipped over.

He apparently rowed like crazy to the shore and was on a state of shock for some days after; So the monster of Lake Seljord was born. These people also told me of a few idea's that they were keen to take back from Loch Ness. They were immediately impressed with the idea of an exhibition and were anxious to return home and set to work on their own smaller scale version of what they had seen in Drumnadrochit. Also they were going to invest in a passenger carrying boat which could run regular trips out onto the water...both very successful ventures here at Loch Ness. I encountered them to find a local

person with an interest and to get him working on recording peoples sightings and making them publicly known which would lead to a greater awareness of their monster. For the next six months I thought little about Lake Seljord and concentrated on my own hunting here at Loch Ness, then

out of the blue came a letter from The Lake Monster Club of Seljord' inviting me to be present in July 1993 at the opening if their new exhibition and spend a week studying their evidence for the creature they know as Selma.

So it was that I found myself in the Telemark region of Norway high up in the mountains on the shores of what I can only describe as a picture postcard lake, infact it's 14km long by 2km wide in a sort of sock or boomerang shape with depths of up to 142m, which means that you are talking about a lake roughly half the size of Loch Ness.

I very soon realised that their evidence would be harder to collect than it is for me here, due to the very scattered population and the obvious language barrier. Also it seemed that the people who had invited me, the people trying to promote their area, each with some financial interest in tourism, did not realise that they would have to convince me of the existence of this animal or else I would return to Loch Ness and say when asked "Well I saw no evidence for a creature in Lake Seljord," it would not be enough to put me on a beach for a week looking at the water, then pack me off back to Scotland to become an ambassador for them, they would have to satisfy my own reservations.

The quality of what the witnesses had to say varied immensely, in my line of work you soon learn to distinguish between those people who are telling you what they think you want to hear, and those who are talking with sincerity and passion about an experience which has happened to them. The most impressive witness that I met was a man called Jorn Enger, who works for a Norwegian TV Company and has a summer house overlooking Lake Seljord. It was on a summers evening in 1977 whilst camping near the headland

known as Sinnesodden (the deepest part of the lake) that he and his wife watched a long dark black-like object come from around the point and head off across their line of vision at a great speed, on a calm surface, in good visibility. Whatever it was Jom felt sure that much more of it lay hidden beneath the water.
It was at almost the same point just off of Sinnesodden that on 28th June 1986 Asmund Skori had what must be one of the closest encounters with something in Lake Seljord. He was out in a small motorboat, again it was a warm summers day when he spotted some distance away, what he thought was the back of this animal known as Selma. His reaction was different to how you would expect most people to behave. He decided that if he could get close enough to it, then maybe he could hit it with his oar kill it, and take it back to land to prove that something strange really had been living in their lake. Unfortunately for Selma he only managed to get within 5 meters of his pray, but as a result of this he was able to give a good description of what he saw. There were three places of disturbance. The first at the front end where he could just make out a very shallow lump causing a small wash

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as it travelled forward. This was followed by a gap then a large hump which formed what he took too be the back of this object, then maybe twice that distance behind came another small disturbance, the overall length he gauged at being over 10m. The texture of this large hump he described as being slug or snail like. He also got said that he got the impression that it was being propelled by something very near the front end just below the surface. I pushed him with the aid of my

translator, to give me more details about the hump, and then suddenly a penny dropped as to what he was trying to say about it. Unlike here at Loch Ness when people talk of a hump it generally seems to be like an upturned boat, in Asmunds description he was trying to tell me that he could see through underneath it! Rather like an elongated car tyre. By drawing the two opinions I asked him to tick which one was correct, the solid upturned boat or this arch like hump, he indicated the second one, if this was to prove to be a common characteristic of sightings then beyond a doubt this would turn out to be a very different animal to the residents of Loch Ness.
Finding common characteristics however was an almost impossible task
Torje Lindstol saw a head and neck like that of an elk at a distance of 40m in 1960 with an eye the size of a saucer, whilst in 1971 Alf Tveit watched as seven humps moved away from him, again at Sinnesodden, before turning and all submerging at once, he could not say for sure whether or not you could see through the humps.
As I was introduced to a man who has spent all his life on the lakeside Halvor. J. Sandsdalen. Who's working life was spent as a journalist, therefore bringing him in contact with a lot of sighting reports. Now in retirement he has brought these reports plus all the other evidence together in a book (only available in Norwegian) called 'SELJORD ORMEN' I asked if we could go on a lap of the lake, along with the translator and Jorn Enger, so that Halvor could point out the important locations where things have been spotted and so that I could get a clear overall idea of the place.
Unfortunately Halvor had grown tired of being quizzed about Selma do I learnt very little on this trip.

However he had not grown tired of painting verbal pictures of the rest of Seljords folklore history. The only useful piece of information that he gave me was that, on occasions people have spoken of unusual fish activity just before a sighting. In his words "The water would start to boil" In the short time that I was able to study lake Seljord I came away with mixed opinions. On the one hand I grew more and more suspicious of the people who had invited me over. The publicity that my visit generated for them on Norwegian t.v, radio and newspapers 'Loch Ness Monster Hunter to Search for Selma' seemed to be the only important part of the exercise for them. Showing me the evidence was a mild inconvenience. Couple this with the Bypass which I noticed being constructed around their town and I could see why the local business men were so eager to generate a tourist industry out of their legend, without Selma their shops, camp sites, and restaurants are in for a bit of a recession. On the other hand, of the dozen or so eye-witnesses that I interviewed a large number of them were very sincere about what they say they've seen. The number of witnesses that I was to talk to in such a short time meant that I could not get a very clear overall picture of what phenomenon they have, they nearly all discribed it differently or saw different parts. Taking the one recurring characteristic which was this serpent-like hump. I would have to say that I don't believe that it is the same type of animal as our friend in Loch Ness. Selma seems more likely to fit the description of a great eel. Like Loch Ness, more information needs to be obtained, somebody needs to pick up where Halvor J. Sandsdalen has left off and bring all the evidence together so that a clearer picture can be drawn. It will not be me, I have the same job to do here at

Loch Ness, and whoever does do it will need to speak Norwegian. We will here more about it, because the businessmen there are hard at work making sure of that, and I for one will be watching with great interest what evidence emerges from the lake. If your in there Selma then I think the mayor of Seljord would like to make a deal with you....
Ed's Comments*********
Once again thanks a lot to Steve for taking the time to write down and share his experiences with us. I look forward to recieving more from Steve over the next few years. I must stress again that Steve works independently any donations or help you can give him would be most appreciated. Write either to me or to the address given on the first article written by .Ed.
and
him.
****
Back issue's of the Crypto Chronicle are still available. Issue one & Two are available at £1.00 per issue. Please make cheques/P.O. payable to Craig Harris..
.Ed
The Crypto Chronicle
Western Bigfoot Society
Western Bigfoot Society (Director Ray Crowe) has been kind enough to supply me plenty of information on both themselves and Bigfoot sightings events etc. from the Portland area of Oregon.
Ray Crowe publishes a magazine called THE TRACK RECORD which I personally think is very impressive. It's full of upto date events, plus old reports, colour photo's etc. Membership to the WBS is $20 or $30 foreign which includes free meetings, the track record and field trips on a regular basis. So I suggest that anybody who has an interest in Bigfoot should write to get The Track Record.
Ray and

In Ray's words: The WBS is an active, Portland based group that is interested in the study of Bigfoot and other unusual things. Established in 1991 by Director Ray Crowe, the society has grown rapidly. The society has no philosophy, although we generally try to discourage the 'Kill The Monster' types by education, but generally we are 'open-door' to anybody that is interested. Some members are professionals, UFO believers, wildlife experts, hunters, or just 'off the street' interested people..many who claim to have seen Bigfoot.

The society meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7.00pm, 8622 North Lombard, and usually has guest speakers, although they might not always be Bigfoot-oriented. The Oregon Archeological Society sent a speaker that once showed us how to make stone tools. Membership is annually $20.00 (family $30.00). You receive a certificate, membership card and THE TRACK RECORD. Donations are always appreciated. There are frequent outings on several different levels. Group outings are 'bonding' type of get-togethers in area of frequently reported Bigfoot activity. Late in the year there is a larger hosted affair BIGFOOT DAZE in Carson, Washington which includes speakers, eats and the like. CAVE DAZE, celebrating the anniversary of the WBS is usually held each July at the APE CAVE near Cougar, WA. Smaller more experienced groups are often directed to certain area where recent activity has been reported. These leads, and other 'hot' leads are usually shared with The Bigfoot Research Project (Director Peter Byrne). A team is usually fielded at the first opportunity to investigate the sighting and those who report may have anonymity if requested. Call 1-800-BIGFOOT immediately if you have a hot lead. The TRACK RECORD, newsletter of

the society is published monthly, usually in the middle of the following month, (June issue in mid-July). November and December there are no meetings or newsletters, Bigfoot is on holiday. The TR is composed of meeting notes, upcoming events, letters to the editor, articles of interest, miscellaneous events (non Bigfoot things), and the Foot Notes, a listing of recently reported (might also be old) Bigfoot activity. These are usually detailed as to time, place, and names (unless asked not too)
A word of caution - All reports are usually published, many may be erroneous of even fictional, but our policy is to let the reader decide on the accuracy. WEAR YOUR SKEPTICALS when reading. Sample copy & back issues $2.00 each plus a couple of stamps.
Since the first issue of this mag I have been trying to give you the reader the opportunity to see what other groups from around the world are doing in regards to Crypto.
The Michigan/Canadian Bigfoot information Centre were the first I contacted then The Bigfoot Research Project, and now The Western Bigfoot Society. I hope that all of you have enjoyed reading about these other groups. If you want any information from any of the above groups then write direct or to me and I'll pass your letters on. All the above groups are very helpful and will assist you with any research that does not affect their own personal policies. As most of you are aware witnesses confidentiality is of the utmost importance....Ed
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Western Bigfoot Society - George W. Earley article in This Week Magazine
It's huge, hairy and smells like it hasn't bathed since the dawn of time. It can leave tracks 6 inches wide and 18 inches long. They're human-like, but the toe configuration is unlike

yours and mine.
The white man calls it 'Bigfoot' Native Americans call it by many names 'Sasquatch' a Salish Indian word, is perhaps the one most frequently used is becoming the preferred term. Most scientists zoologists, anthropologists and folk lorists, for example - don't believe in Sasquatch. It's a myth, they say. A legend. Monster folklore built on childhood fantasies that have carried over into adulthood and been reinforced by Hollywood monster movies. But if it's all a myth, then

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what's been making all those tracks people have found in the Pacific Northwest (and other area's of America and Canada) for nearly 200 years?
That's what Ray Crowe wants to know. Crowe is founder/director of the Western Bigfoot Society, a little band of believers whose faith in the existence of the beast is unshakable. One evening a month they gather in a basement room below Crowe's used book and collectables shop in Portland's St. Johns neighbourhood to exchange viewpoints (possibly the hottest topic: Should we kill a Sasquatch to prove they exist or leave them alone?) and to listen to guest speakers on various aspects of the Sasquatch mystery. And perhaps to prove that they are not merely armchair adventurers, some of them make field trips to nearby area's in Washington and Oregon where Sasquatch have been reportedly seen and/or tracks found.
A recent meeting was typical. About 20 people attended and because believing in, or claiming to have seen a Sasquatch can subject you to a lot of unwanted ridicule, any names mentioned in this account, save for

Ray Crowe and the evening's main speaker, Jim Hewkin, are pseudonyms For the first time visitors (non-members are welcome to attend, Crowe merely asks a $3 donation 'to discourage idle curiosity seekers and help pay the electric bill) the long, narrow meeting room initially gives the impression of being decorated in early flea market. At the foot of the stairs is a table with material for sale: Back issues of the WBS newsletter The Track Record, WBS buttons, Bumber stickers reading BIGFOOT is Alive and Well in Oregon, and books about Sasquatch. Beyond the table, a couple of dozen chairs set up two-by-two either side of a centre aisle fill the room wall to wall. The walls themselves are covered with an eclectic collection of Sasquatch memorabilia. There are topographical maps of area where sightings and/or tracks have been reported, dozens of magazine articles and newspaper clippings (both straight news and supermarket tabloid sleaze), photographs of WBS members on outings, an ad (and a T-shirt) for the Bigfoot Waterbeds and Futons shop in Vancouver, Washington, and a photo of a with a small Sasquatch-type footprint tattooed on his shoulder. These's a 'Harry and the Hendersons' poster, comic books, a Bigfoot flag, and postcards of life-sized wooden Bigfoot statues in California and Oregon, and the addresses of various other organizations of Sasquatch seekers in the United States and Canada.
man
Up front is a speaker's podium, complete with a sketch of a Sasquatch head. A nearby display case holds plaster casts of 'genuine' Sasquatch tracks from Coos Bay and Estacada, dried faeces, a motley collection of animal bones and skulls (none of Sasquatch, unfortunately) Sasquatch coffee mugs and similar oddments,

and more photographs. After giving the attendees time to mingle, exchange viewpoints and browse the walls, Crowe called the meeting to order. Referring to track reports from Idaho which the Associated Press wire had carried, Crowe announced that John, a new WBS member, had visited the site and asked him for his observations.

Noting that he got there not only some days after the initial find but after a heavy rain, John said he didn't really know enough to pass judgment on the tracks he was shown. He said the two longtime Bigfoot experts who were on the scene. Rene Dahinden of British Columbia, and Washington State University anthropologist Dr. Grover Krantz, disagreed about the tracks. Krantz felt they were probably real, while Dahinden insisted they were fakes. The tracks, said John, were smaller than those usually reported, being only 12-13 inches long. Jake commented that unless we thought there was only one Sasquatch who had lived longer than Methuselah, then there had to be families. Families mean adults, and juveniles and, like human children, young Sasquatch won't begin life with adult-sized feet. Jake said he expected most people hiking in the woods had seen the tracks of Juvenile Sasquatch and dismissed them as barefoot humans.

After all, he added somewhat sarcastically, 'everyone knows' many backpackers are crazy eco-freaks who often hike naked once they are beyond the prying eyes of the OCA. Footprint fakery is a problem, Crowe noted, pointing to huge track casts on the wall behind him. All were props used in a movie shot in Portland and had been decorations in the film's Bigfoot Bar and Grill. On the other hand, said Hewkin, a retired wildlife biologist who spent nearly 30 years ranging Oregon's forests while working for

the state wildlife department, when you find footprints many miles from roads and other trappings of civilization, in area's where tourists are non-existent and even backpackers are rarely seen, it is not easy to dismiss them as fakes.

Like John, Hewkin had travelled to the Idaho site where he talked with Krantz as well as with some local Indians who said many other tracks has been found in the same area a week or two before the ones that had gotten news media attention. (This, The Crypto as Sasquatch investigators know, is not usual. Once a report be it a sighting or the finding of tracks, becomes public, other people are willing to come forth and talk about what they've seen. Some investigators estimate that perhaps only 10 percent of all Sasquatch sightings are ever publicly reported.

Hewkin described the Idaho countryside as a mix of woods and farmlands with ample cover for large animals. Several attendees commented on the case with which wild animals, even male deer and elk with their large antlers, can move through undergrowth that humans find virtually impassable. In his talk, Hewkin said that at the beginning of his career as a wildlife biologist, he too dismissed Sasquatch reports as fakes or mistaken observations by untrained people inexperienced with wildlife. But, he went on to say, he kept finding 'signs' inconsistent with known animals, particularly bears, frequently cited by skeptics as a major cause for Sasquatch sightings. (Bears do appear human-like, particularly at a distance, when standing upright on their hind feet. But as they cannot walk more than a step or two that way, bears could not have left the long lines of tracks found in Idaho)

Bears eat grubs, ants and other insects, and will tear rotten logs and

stumps apart to get them. But bears have claws and leave recognizable claw marks when they do so. Hewkin says he has found broken logs and trees with obvious fingernail marks on them, only from fingernails far larger than yours and mine.

The Bigfoot, he believes, are omnivores, able to eat a wide variety of berries and grasses as well as meat of various kinds. He told of interviewing a man who said he saw several Bigfoot digout a rodent nest

and devour the mice. A deer hunter told him of seeing a fawn caught by an unidentified animal. The hunter was seated on a stump only a few dozen feet from the edge of a woods. Suddenly something' burst from the woods, snatched up the fawn, which had wandered away from it's mother, and dashed back into the trees. It happened so fast, the hunter told Hewkin, that all he could truly be sure of was that the creature hadn't been a bear and that the fawn had been grasped by hands and not a mouthful of teeth.

This report provoked a number of second-hand anecdotal accounts from attendees who recounted instances they had heard of that fit in with Hewkin's belief that the Sasquatch are active predators. Tracks found in snow, says Hewkin shows that the Sasquatch, unlike bears, do not hibernate in the winter. To stay active then requires considerable food, and Hewkin believes they cache the bodies of animals caught earlier in the year. The creatures then feed off this smelly carrion and that, Hewkin believes is the source of the horrible smell mentioned by Sasquatch sighters. The smell is said to be so bad that even trained hunting dogs refuse to follow it.

Charlie didn't agree with Helkin's idea. He told me afterwards that while a Sasquatch would be smelly in the spring after a winter of sharing a

lair with rotten meat, a few rains should wash even the stinkiest one clean. But Sasquatch stink is mentioned year round. 'My guess' said Charlie, 'is that Sasquatch, like some other animals, has evolved scent glands that put out a really bad smell for defensive purposes. Strong as it is, a Sasquatch would be no match for bears, cougar or a wolf pack but a truly nose-numbing, gut-wrenching stink could scare them away.'

flipped through a copy of The Track Record, the WBS newsletter, and found a mix of anecdotal accounts some dating back many years, excerpts from books and magazines and newspaper reports. Some of the tales seemed pretty far out, I told Crowe. He agreed, noting that he lacked the time and other resources needed to check out much of what he printed. 'I just run it all and let the members make thier own decisions about it,' he said, smiling. 'But if I can, I do try to check. I've been told the Estacada Ranger District on the other side of Mount Hood has a log of Bigfoot sightings, with 30 entries over the last three years. I got this from a reliable source but they deny it, so I've written the chief ranger in Washington, D.C., No rely yet.'

I wandered out of the store to find WBS members still discussing their favorite topic on the sidewalk. Around me were the usual sights and sounds and smells of the city. It seemed almost unreal to consider that only a few miles away, in the thick forects that blanket much of the Pacific Northwest from Northern California into Alaska, may live remnants of mankind's forgotten cousins, the Sasquatch.

George W. Early, a free-lance writer living on Mount Hood, has been a backpacker and an unsuccessful seeker of Sasquatch for several decades.

Western Bigfoot Society
First Northwest WBS Bigfoot Report

for 1994
The Western Bigfoot Society recieved it's first report for the year near the end of January from a lady that called in. The family had been camped along the Molalla River about 20 miles south of the town of Molalla, OR, for several weekends in the month.

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The Crypto Chronicle
The weather had been mild, and the family set up camp, or rather, arranged their campers around a firepit, in the dense, old growth, fir stand. They liked the area, and had visited frequently the year before. Curiously, on Saturday, Jan 1st, the daughter of Sharon Jones was poking around in some brush, and found an odd assortment of things. There was a pile of two red bowls that had disappeared from a card table last Memorial Day, another glass bowl that they didn't recognise, an old automobile steering wheel, some missing silverware, and a pair of boots.
That night, they stayed around the campfire until about 9.00pm, and caught glimpses of eyeshine from the fire, of some kind of 'critter' in the brush. They quartered four apples and four apples and four oranges and left some on a stump, and the rest on the ground. The next morning, the animals had taken those on the ground, but left the quarters on the stump. Later a heavy rainstorm moved in. The next weekend, weather again kind, they returned to the same camp, enjoying the mid-winter respite while the rest of the nation shivered. At 7.05am, Sharon had just got up, and using the rest room...the camper rocked, 'real hard' she said. She looked out the windows but didn't see anything. That afternoon, hiking down an old road, they found 'butt' prints, where it looked like something had sat down on the road. Sharon took

several photo's. In camp, Sharon looked up, and there was the Bigfoot, darkbrown in colour, and peering at her from behind a tree. It was gone when she came back with the camera. Later, she glimpsed it again kneeling in some brush nearby.
This time she took two photo's (not yet available to WBS), and Sharon's friend saw it also. At no time did did any of the campers have any fear of the creature.
Later that night, about 8.00pm, husband LeRoy was 'relieving' himself against a tree, and again the creature peeked out from a close 25 feet away, it's face reflected in the firelight. They never could determine the height, as it was always partly concealed. The following weekend, Jan 15/16/17, they were at camp again, anxious to get more proof of the existence of the creature. This time they spread a layer of flower on the ground around their vehicle, hoping to get good tracks to photograph. Also, a trout fish was hung high in a tree. But, no tracks were found, and the fish was not touched. Guess the creature was smarter than what they thought.
Sunday night, around a huge fire, Ed Riddle was in the brush collecting wood, and he screamed...ran to the camp, petrified with fear. When he calmed down, he said that something had touched him at the waist, he felt hands on both sides of his body. Nothing more was seen or heard of the creature, and winter cold temperatures finally froze the area, and they haven't returned since.
Ed's comments**********
Thanks Ray not only for permission to use this report of your first 94 sighting, but for the help and support you have given me over the last few months.
Ed
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The
Crypto Chronicle

Rabbit Revival

Where introduced rabbits are a problem, conservationists often call for their eradication so that native flora and fauna can recover from their depredations. Common sense, you might think, but what actually happens if you remove all the rabbits?

Do the native plants and animals miraculously recover, or is it too late once the harm's been done? Steven North of Scottish Natural Heritage and colleagues in the UK and Mauritius have been looking into the question on Round Island (near Mauritius in the Indian Ocean), the only home of some of the World's rarest reptiles, and until 1986, to abundant rabbits.

The speed of recovery of native species had, they found, been surprisingly rapid, with increases among lizards particularly dramatic. Between 1982 and 1989 numbers of Telfair's skinks and Vinson's geckos more than doubled, Gunther's geckos almost doubled, and night geckos increased by a massive 20 fold. The eradication of the rabbits came too late for the burrowing boa though. Despite extensive searching, scientists have not seen one alive since 1975, and it must now be presumed EXTINCT.

If You Go Down
To The Woods
Today!

Seven centuries after Britain's last bears were extinguished in the Caledonian Forest, the species has reappeared in the wilds of North-west Oxfordshire. At dusk on Friday 14th January, bus driver Greg Gilbert was on the road between Charlbury and, Chadlington when, he says, "This creature appeared in front of the bus crossing the road. It looked like a bear, big, brown and hairy, standing up on it's back legs at least five feet tall."

Others think they have seen a bear in nearby Wychwood Forest, which covers about 8 square kilometres of deciduous woodland. Residents James Graham-Cloete was driving through the forest one night when he saw, in his headlights, 'a large dark object' sitting by the roadside. On slowing down for a closer look, he was positive it was a bear. The most

conclusive sightings are those of farmer John Blackwell of Dean, near Chadlington, who has seen what he believes to be a bear six times. In September 1992 he was in a wood near the council dump when he startled an animal the size of a sheepdog, which then slumped off into the trees. After seeing it again in the same place on the following two nights, he was certain it was a younger bear.

Blackwell saw the creature again in the woods in February and then twice at the end of May, by which time it had grown to about the size of a great dane. Blackwell has also come across other signs of the creature's presence. Clawmarks, large footprints and a continual howling. Oxfordshire's county recorder John Campbell says he's keeping an open mind about the latest reports.

"We've had wallabies and kangaroo's in the county in the past few years, so why not bears as well?" There is, he says a tremendous amount of woodland cover right across west Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds. "It would not be difficult for any animal to move over a wide area." Simon Baker, of the Ministry of Agriculture, fisheries and Food, who has been monitoring mammal escapes for the past fifteen years, hasn't heard of any previous bear escapes in England, though several have escaped in Scotland. "A pet bear should be registered, but obviously some are kept illegally and things do escape from time to time. There is no reason why one could not survive once it got out."

Dr. Derek Yalden, a zoologist at Manchester University with a particular interest in large mammals, is more sceptical. He thinks the biggest problem for a bear would be finding enough food without killing livestock, and no unexplained losses have been reported. Going by Blackwell's description, Douglas

Richardson, animal collection manager at London Zoo, thinks the creature is probably a European brown bear, the same species that once occurred throughout the UK, and now occurs in north-eastern Europe and in parts of southern Europe.
The continuous howling, he says, is typical of a high-spirited young bear.
If there is indeed a bear in the wild, it poses a conservation quandary. The European brown bear is a protected species listed in Appendix II of the Berne Convention. This requires the Government to take 'necessary legislation and administrative measures to ensure (it's) special protection.
The Government might, therefore have to give the bear legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.
THEY MIGHT EVEN HAVE TO FIND IT A MATE!
******** Ed's Comments ********
I for one would be glad to see the re-introduction of bears back in this country. It's a shame that many animals have been killed off by us and our ancestors. I think we should re-introduce the wolf as well. Any comment on this would be welcome.

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